

IDAY, MAY 4, 1906.

COUNTY NEWS

TORN PAGE

Suburban

News Items.

ITEMS OF NEWS AND MATTERS
OF INTEREST FROM OTHER
DE SOTO COUNTY TOWNSPersonal Items Concerning Prominent
People in Other Communities. Real
Estate Transfers, Marriages, Births.

NOCATEE

The picnic given at Prierson's Ford last Saturday was quite a success. Under the management of Messrs. W. C. Compton and R. E. Welles the large crowd of about three hundred, were well provided for, and many "bakes and fishes" were left untouched. After a delightful morning under the beautiful shade that this spot affords, and the splendid dinner that followed, we had the pleasure of listening to a number of very able addresses on the questions of to-day touching DeSoto county. Mr. Jordan, of Punta Gorda, the division candidate, set forth his views in clear-cut and forcible manner. He was followed by our own Judge J. B. Cochran, who met the issues squarely and in a masterly way.

If there were any present who were in doubt about the division question, we feel sure that the judge must have dispelled all such. In fact, we feel that even Mr. Jordan himself went away wondering if he hadn't strayed from the beaten path. These addresses were followed by brief addresses by R. E. Brown, candidate for county judge, and D. W. Brown, D. S. Williams and J. L. Livingstone, candidates for county commissioners.

The public school of Nocatee closed its work Monday evening, April 30th, with an entertainment given for the benefit of the school library. A large crowd from Arcadia and other points were present and a neat sum was netted. The following program was rendered: Invocation, Mr. T. J. Welles; song, "Our Country"; song, "Fanny Little Folks"; dialogue, "Got A New Suit"; instrumental solo, Willie Welles; dialogue, "Keeping Up Appearances"; male quartette, "Carve Dat Possum"; dialogue, "Playing School"; double duet, "Chants the Robber"; instrumental solo, Lottie McQuady; recitation, "Tyranny and Thisbe"; Claudia Carlton; dialogue, "Quizzing the Quack"; double duet, "Beautiful Moonlight"; dialogue, "Bachelor Girl's Club"; recitation, "The Last Bouquet"; Lottie McQuady; male quartette, "Who Stole De Ham?"; instrumental solo, Claudia Carlton; dialogue, "A Very Good Joke"; song, "Good-Bye."

Messrs. W. G. Welles, W. S. Worley, Sid Carlton and John Treadwell, of Arcadia, composed a party who left here Saturday morning in Maj. Welles' auto to attend court in Tampa.

Mrs. Gibbs, of Wauchula, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Patrick, last Thursday.

The following party from Arcadia attended the closing exercises of the Nocatee public school last Monday night: Misses Mittie Harward, Judith Watkins, Mary Rainey, Mary Moye, Lois Moye, Percy Fuls and Dauphine Simmons; Messrs. Estes, Harry C. Benton, Pruitt, Camp and H. L. Carlton.

Misses Minnie Simmons and Inez Carlton were the guests of Miss Willie Welles Monday.

Rev. H. C. Peelman, of Ft. Myers, preached an interesting sermon at the Baptist church last Sunday night. Rev. Peelman was pastor at Nocatee several years ago, and his many friends were glad to welcome him back.

Miss Eva Dawson was a visitor in Arcadia Tuesday.

Dr. and Mrs. G. W. Dawson, Mr. Will Vance and Mr. and Mrs. Garner, of Birmingham, Ala., returned last week from a short tour to Ft. Myers and Sanibel Island.

Rev. W. L. Savage left this week for the Southern Baptist Convention at Chattanooga. While away Rev. Savage will preach at Mariana, Ark.

Mr. B. F. Welles has put in fixtures for lighting his home with gas.

Nocatee is rapidly becoming an important point for shipping vegetables. Last week C. E. Bearce shipped a carload of potatoes, and large quantities of tomatoes, cucumbers, beans and

other vegetables are being shipped almost daily.

Misses Bernice and Jamie Worley, of Owens, were in town Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Garner, of Birmingham, Ala., who have been the guests of Dr. G. W. Dawson and family, returned home this morning after a stay of several weeks. Mr. Garner came to Florida this winter on account of his health and has been so much benefited that he thought property and expects to return here next fall to make Nocatee his home. We cordially welcome him back.

Mr. B. F. Welles made a flying trip to Torrey and Arcadia Tuesday.

Quite a number of people attended the picnic at Ft. Ogden Tuesday.

HOLZENDORE

The monotonous drought was broken in this section last night by a splendid rain which was highly appreciated, especially by the farmers and fruit growers.

We regret to learn of the death of Mrs. Jack Crews, which occurred last Thursday at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Green Collier. Her remains were laid to rest in the Crews-Cemetery. To the bereaved husband and other relatives we extend our profound sympathy.

Miss Kate Scarborough returned from Ft. Myers last Tuesday after spending several weeks very pleasantly with relatives and friends.

Mr. W. R. Langford went to Arcadia Monday to serve as a juror in the case of the negro Simmons, who murdered his aunt and her three children at Pinelevel some weeks ago.

Miss Roberta Smith, of Altman, is the guest of her friend, Miss Helena Holzendorf, this week.

Mr. W. R. Williams, who has been engaged in the fish business for the past two months on Lake Okechobee, returned home last Monday. His enterprise did not prove a success on account of too much rain.

Your correspondent and family were fortunate guests last Saturday at a good, old-time picnic and fish fry given by their esteemed neighbors of Altman at the beautiful banks of Charley Apopka. After doing full justice to the funny tribe and many other good things which were in abundance we visited the famous Sulphur Springs a mile further down the creek, where all enjoyed the clear, cool water as it gushed forth from the sparkling rocks. The day was most pleasantly spent and all present regretted that time passed so rapidly.

Mr. Teen Waldron, a prosperous farmer and fruit grower of Brownsville, was here last week interviewing the voters of this section. He expressed himself as being delighted to find nearly every voter lined up against division. We knew that a long time ago.

BROWNVILLE

The people of this community are having the church house painted, which improves the looks of our little town.

Quite a lot of beans and cucumbers are being shipped from this point.

Candidates are constantly visiting our little town.

G. G. Albritton, of Crewsville, who has bought an interest in the Brooker Bros' store, has moved his family here. We are glad to have Mr. Albritton in our midst.

D. S. Williams was lecturing in Arcadia Tuesday.

Mrs. W. G. Welles, of Nocatee, made her home folks a pleasant visit Saturday and Sunday.

Murphy Rogers made a business trip to Arcadia Monday.

Miss Edna Hollingsworth is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Welles, of Nocatee.

Tom Louter passed through our little town Wednesday.

A. S. Waldron made a business trip to Crewsville Friday.

Miss Missouri Moore attended the picnic at Gardner Tuesday.

Rev. Owens and family were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Pearce Wednesday.

Mrs. Jno. Morgan and daughter, Mrs. Lowe, of Fish Branch Settlement, were guests of Mrs. Geiger Sunday.

E. C. Sharpe made Hull a business call Friday.

S. G. Ellis and three other Wauchulites are doing quite a lot of painting in Brownville.

Little Miss Eula Waldron was the guest of her brother, L. S., of Lily, this week.

C. Orr was among the Brownville-ites that attended the Gardner picnic.

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people will be satisfied. If we do this
we can save \$25,000 per year on our
schools, and \$25,000 per year on our
roads, this will put us back to the
methods of 1887-1893 and give us a
much lower rate of taxation than
levied at that time.

We do not believe that the Wan-
chula Advocate voices the sentiment
of the intelligent, progressive people
of any part of the county, when it
says: "The tax payers would gladly
go back to the hardships of 1887 when
they only had to pay a fraction over
one-half what they are paying today."

Editor De Soto News:

An article in the Herald of last
week, by tax payer, is calculated to
create strife and ill-feeling against
Arcadia, by asserting that Arcadia
has been arrogant and selfish in the
use of its power, and that Oak Street
has used its efforts to dominate the
county by petition, even going so far
as to undertake to suppress blind
tigers in De Soto county. Instead of
offering argument to a thinking pub-
lic, he tries to excite prejudice by
bold assertion unprovable.

In what has the Arcadia precinct
been selfish in office holding? The
State Representative is from Punta
Gorda (the highest honor).

The sheriff is from Punta Gorda,
(the most lucrative).

The tax assessor is from Punta
Gorda.

Clerk of the court is from Ft. Green,
(Second best office).

County Judge is from Nocatee.

Registrar is from Gardner.

Treasurer and collector only are
from Arcadia.

What more does Punta Gorda want?

In what has Arcadia been selfish
and arrogant in county expenditures?
Look at the map. De Soto county is
divided into five commissioners dis-
tricts. Arcadia district is the largest,
and pays the most taxes, yet from
year to year the road fund has been
divided by five and each district given
one-fifth; hence as Punta Gorda ex-
commissioner, Hon. McLane well
knows, that out of the first expendi-
ture for good roads in this county, and
for which our high taxes of today are
paying off deferred payments, still fall-
ing due, Punta Gorda got the first and
largest share, and today a man can
ride from Punta Gorda to Arcadia in
a half day in any sort of weather,
where formerly in high water it took
two days' hard drive.

Does it look selfish or arrogant that
with the precinct that pays the great-
est revenue, Arcadia should be willing
to take her fifth part and no more?

Now for the schools—Twenty-four
out of fifty-three are in what would
be the north county, all built since
De Soto county was organized.

A county high school at Wauchula,
Arcadia and Punta Gorda. Look over
the state and see how many other
counties have high schools at other
points than the county seat.

Arcadia has made no objection to
the arrangement. Does that look
selfish or arrogant?

As to proposed lines of division,
look at the map. In all common
sense, upon what grounds does Punta
Gorda claim that Venus or Fish Eating
Creek should be tributary to Punta
Gorda? Certainly every settler in that
section would have to go further to
get to Punta Gorda than Arcadia.

(Continued on page 8, col. 5.)

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methods of 1887-1893 and give us a
much lower rate of taxation than
levied at that time.

The first thing which struck me,
was why, if Wauchula was so inter-
ested in the welfare of the new pro-
posed north end of the county, didn't
she ask Bowling Green, Zolfo and
Avon Park to go into the Punta Gorda
convention? The best answer I see
to this is, that Punta Gorda has lost
her railroad terminal. A new road
is going to Boca Grand to deep water,
and Punta Gorda is desperate to save
herself. Wauchula sees the golden
opportunity to make a deal with
Punta Gorda, the act is done, and
other interested towns are ignored—
not, however, when the votes will
be counted. Irving Flock, in the
Champion two weeks ago, wrote an
article which hits the nail on the head,
when he said: "Tis true, we have ter-
ritory enough, but our population and
amount of taxable property is too
small to divide the county." Take
Polk county, they have two repre-
sentatives and one senator, while
De Soto has only one representative
and it takes both De Soto and Wan-
chula to get a senator. This alone
shows our lack of population. It is
true, we have many counties smaller
than De Soto, but their wealth must
be far greater than the new counties
proposed would be. We have seen
the Champion and News both giving
assessment of what the proposed
new counties would be, which would
not be sufficient to pay expenses, un-
less the property was assessed much
higher than it is now. This called
forth a "guarantee" from Wauchula,
and one of our leading citizens very
fittily remarked that it reminded
him of the Guarantee of Hall's
Catarrh Cure of \$100.00 reward, and
just about as binding.

A few days ago, I had the pleasure
of meeting two Wauchula citizens,
and meeting each one about ten
minutes apart. I asked the first one
why he favored division. His reply
was that he had property there, and
his interest was at Wauchula. Then
its your own selfish interest you are
wishing to divide the county for. I
met the second one, and he said he
had a house he wanted to sell for a
price and if they got the county seat,
he thought he could do it. Still a
third said he thought there was not
sufficient population nor property, but
intimated he would probably vote for
it, and at the same time said, there
would be votes against it in Wauchula.
Now all of these parties made these
expressions in the presence of wit-
nesses, should they read this item
they will know who they are.

I mention this to show that it is a
selfish move on the part of Wauchula
to benefit themselves, and not the
county at large. The same spirit that
prompts them to divide the county, is
the same spirit that prompted the
Wauchulites to discontinue his sub-
scription to the Champion—because it
didn't meet his own selfish wishes.

So far as I am concerned, I would
as soon live under political rule of an
Arcadia "ring," as to live under a
Wauchula "ring," by giving them full
power by outvoting the balance of
us if the county is divided.

We have no animosity towards
Wauchula. We are pleased to see
her prospering as she is, every pros-
perous community is a help to the
country, but, we don't believe in the
people being fooled into county di-
vision. Before you cast your vote
sum up the facts and figure from the
county records. It is bound to raise
taxes. We have a citizen here, from
Wauchula, but late of Alabama, who

says he saw "the thing" tried in Ala-
bama, in making a new county, and
though they said it would not raise
taxes, but that he knows by experi-
ence that it did. We have still an-
der from one of the new counties
in Florida, who says they paid high
taxes and did without a court house
for years. What about the local
option law, and how about the new
counties being wet? We should be
pleased to hear a joint debate with
Judge Cochran or others. We will
have plenty of ice water to keep mat-
ter cool and give a good audience.

Very truly,
W. A. Minor.

W. A. Minor.

W. A. Minor.

W. A. Minor.

W. A. Minor.

W. A. Minor.

Respectfully,
Wm. McGehee.

Editor De Soto County News:

The Wauchula Advocate, last week,
made the assertion that I am a sup-
porter of county division. The Advo-
cate either willingly or ignorantly,
misquoted me. I do not believe in
county division, nor do I think the
citizens of De Soto county will be so
blind to their own interests as to
cast such a foolish ballot.

Respectfully,
S. J. Simmons.

FOR SUPREME COURT JUSTICE.

Friends report that from all por-
tions of the State comes the announce-
ment that Whitfield and Parkhill is
the winning ticket for justices of the
Supreme Court. James B. Whitfield
and Charles B. Parkhill are both won-
derful young Floridians. They have done
their duty well on the Supreme Court
bench and the thinking voters of Flor-
ida do not see why there should be a
change, therefore it is the honest
conviction of the friends of these
young men that they will be nominat-
ed by a flattering majority in the pri-
mary election, May 15th. However,
they are not permitting overconfidence
to make them careless, and they urge
all their friends at every voting pre-
cinct in the State to work in their
behalf until the polls close on the
evening of May 15th.